Weardale Rural Sanitary Authority

Medical Officers Report - St. Johns District, 1895

Gentlemen

I beg to lay before you my report for 1895

Vital Statistics

Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Zymotic Rate	Phthisis	Pulmonary	Heart Disease
3400	26·1	18·8 / 17·6	nil	·88	5·2	1·1

Infant Mortality Rate — 123·5

Death Rate With regard to the Death Rate - four were persons not belonging the district - deducting which reduced the rate to 17·6 - Of the deaths 22 out of the 64 were 65 years old & upwards giving an average of 76

× Since sending the report to the board, I was informed that two deaths of persons belonging the district occurred at Sedgefield Asylum during the Year. One from Phthisis & the other from Heart Disease

Phthisis Whilst the Deaths from Phthisis were only one third of last Year - those from

Pulmonary other Pulmonary Diseases were doubled - being 18 instead of 9

Heart Disease From Heart Disease there were four deaths compared with 5 last Year -

Scarlet Fever There were 5 Cases One in Feb'y & 4 in March all mild & recovered - Inspector visited supplied disinfectants & the usual precautions taken

Enteric Fever One case in Feb'y - Severe in a child 7 years of age at Huntshield Ford recovered - Inspector visited, supplied disinfectants & the usual precautions were taken

Whooping Cough Was very prevalent during the first 6 or 7 months of the Year & there were 3 Deaths

Influenza Was also very prevalent during that time - One death reported -

Erysipelas Two Cases came under notice - both recovered

Measles None came under my notice until Decbr 7th when I heard of four - but since then I have learnt, that it was very prevalent at Lanehead & Neighbourhood - The School having to be closed in consequence from Decbr 18th to Jany 10th 1896

Inspections Have been regularly made

Nuisances These consist of ordinary nuisances arising from Middens, or Accumulations of Manure, Ashpits & Privies & in a few cases Overflowing Cesspools - Nuisances also occurred from Butchers Offals & House Slops Sewage at the outlet of a Sewer - Flooding of Houses from Drains - One System of Drainage at a Dwelling House was found defective - though it had been altered for an Improvement - but the Alteration was wrong - It is now under Orders for Satisfactory Improvement.

Sewers These are flushed where Sewers exist.

Water Supplies A new Water Supply has been put down in the Village of Cowshill - Including Burtreeford - & four Public Stand Pipes are provided - The Westgate water Supply has been Augmented by putting in an additional Spring at Windyside Fall - at Westgate & St Johns Chapel the water mains have been extended for supplying the Station Masters Houses at these Places

Houses Owing to the making of the New Railway, Four New Dwelling Houses have been erected in connection therewith at Wearshead Westgate & St Johns - For Station Masters & at Coronation Bridge Level Crossing.

New Privies Two New Privies with Covered Ashpits at separate parts of Wearshead Village have been Built - The four New Houses above mentioned have privy accommodations some half Dozen or more Privies have been rebuilt near the Railway in Place of Buildings which had to be Taken down, and a new One has been Erected at St Johns Chapel.

I am

Gentlemen

Your obed. Servant

Charles C. Hewitson

M O H

St. Johns Chapel

Jany 29th 1896